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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7484

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Kenji KOBAYASHI	)	
	)	
Application No.: 10/588,953	)	Group Art Unit: 3722
	)	
Filed: August 10, 2007	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
For: <b>BINDING PIECE AND BINDING</b>	)	
<b>APPARATUS</b>	)	

**Commissioner for Patents**  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The documents listed were cited in a Japanese Office Action from a corresponding Japanese patent application, a copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. Two of the prior art documents cited in the Japanese office action, JP-2004-026289 and JP-A-2003-205952, were previously submitted for consideration and therefore are not listed in this IDS. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. JP-A-09-501379. The relevance of this document can be additionally understood from the attached English language abstract, the corresponding U.S. patent no. 5,735,022, and the figures therein.

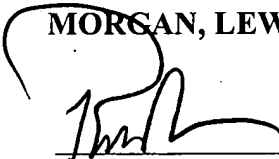
b. JP-A-2002-293364. The relevance of this document can be additionally understood from the attached English language abstract and the figures therein.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

  
Robert J. Goodell, Reg. No. 41,040

Date: March 4, 2008

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